

Sinclair Broadcast Group's recent actions have illustrated the dangers to localism caused by media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Moreover, Sinclair is using the public airways to broadcast media content that is clearly biased and intended to swing the vote in states that are "up for grab" during this presidential election. To do so violates the understanding that the media present objective and unbiased news and material, and it violates statutes that disallow media from using public and private monies to support any particular candidate.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.